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South Korean Chief, at U.N., Calls For World Talks and Unification

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Special to The New York Times

UNITED NATIONS, Oct. 18 — The President of South Korea addressed the General Assembly for the first time today, calling for an international conference to end the division of the Korean peninsula.

South Korean diplomats said the call by the President, Roh Tae Woo, was intended to be a positive response to a proposal by Mikhail S. Gorbachev, the Soviet leader, last month. Mr. Gorbachev, in a speech in the Siberian city of Krasnoyarsk, called for a reduction of

tension on the Korean peninsula and closer economic ties with South Korea, with which the Soviet Union does not have full diplomatic relations.

The South Korean President called for a six-nation "consultative conference for peace" to end the armed standoff between North and South Korea, which has kept the peninsula divided along the 38th parallel. That demarcation line, which became the boundary between the two hostile states after their creation following World War II, has persisted since the armistice ending the Korean War was signed in the border village of Panmunjom 35 years ago.

President Roh said that the Soviet Union, China, the United States and Japan should take part in the conference as well as the two Koreas, both of which have only observer status at the United Nations and can thus only address the General Assembly if it invites them to do so.

The aim of such a conference, he said, would be to "lay a solid founda-

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tion for durable peace and prosperity in northeast Asia" and to "create an international environment more conducive to peace in Korea and reunification of the peninsula."

The conference, he said, should deal with "a broad range of issues concerning peace, stability, progress and prosperity within the area." He said it would not be easy to get the six nations to the same conference table because of "outstanding differences in ideology, social systems and policies among them." But, he said, these difficulties could be overcome.

President Roh was speaking as part of a compromise agreement between the West and Communist nations at the United Nations whereby both North and South Korea got permission to address this year's General Assembly, the first time that either country has been invited to do so.

Although South Korea wants to become a full member of the world organization, North Korea has kept it out with support from China and the Soviet Union, arguing that this would legitimize the peninsula's division and the outcome of the Korean War. As a result, both Korean states remain observers.

The situation was different with the two Germanys: East and West Germany both wanted to join the United Nations after the war, and the United States and the Soviet Union decided that they should both be admitted.

Most of the address was devoted to a call for improved relations between the two Koreas and to a reiteration of the reconciliation offer he made to the North in July.

Mr. Roh repeated his call for a summit meeting with President Kim Il Sung of North Korea and for a nonaggression pact with the Communist authorities in Pyongyang. But even without such a pact, he said, South Korea will never use force first against the North.

There was no indication that North and South Korea plan to meet here as a result of the General Assembly's decision to invite both to speak this year.

North Korea, which began by opposing the South's bid to address the Assembly, is sending Deputy Foreign Minister Kang Sok Ju here Wednesday. Diplomats say the big difference in rank between the two nations' representatives makes a formal meeting unlikely.

North Spurns Reunification

TOKYO, Oct. 18 (Reuters) — President Kim of North Korea rejected South Korea's proposals for reunification today, the Korean Central News Agency said.

In an address at a banquet for President Nicolae Ceausescu of Rumania, Mr. Kim accused the United States and the Seoul Government of trying to create "two Koreas." He spoke before President Roh Tae Woo's appearance at the United Nations.